

EXTENDING FRANCIS

In the May 1995 **Word Ways**, Darryl Francis gave examples of words having every numerical score from 1 (a) to 248 (superstitiously), and challenged readers to come up with a word scoring 249. Leonard Gordon suggested pyknodysostotics, pericardiomediastinitis, electroencephalographers, hexanitrodiphenylamine, hyperprothrombinaemia, photoroentgenographic, mercaptobenzothiazole and chemopallidothalamectomy, all but the first and last in Webster's Second or Third or inferrable from it. Richard Sabey noted superinstitution in Webster's Second. Susan Thorpe added inauthoritativeness, reconstructiveness and photosynthesizing from the OED. Sir Jeremy Morse suggested zoophysiologists (inferred from the Funk & Wagnalls unabridged word zoophysiology) and the inferred word untrustworthier. But Christopher McManus, working with a collection of seven computerized word lists, reported that there exist at least 180 such words! So there is no real need to coin suitable examples, such as Michael Helsem did in a letter to the editor:

If I may anteproprietorially observe that this so-called "word-weight gap" at 249, like many another assassinmade-mystery, exists only in the pseudoweltanschauung of the dictionary-logologist, it would doubtless lead one to oolongphaeic-anagrammatize such zeitlich-keitlessness as grave or gravid tyrannosauruswoe. However, many of my own friends being equallyneonwankerly decriminalizationalists, I will merely sweeten the enigmacrystallography of my newfound untrystlessness...

The list below gives examples of words scoring 251 or more; asterisked ones are due to Leonard Gordon, # ones to Richard Sabey, and + ones to Susan Thorpe. Most of their examples come from Webster's Second or Third, or are plurals inferrable therefrom. The remainder, supplied by Christopher McManus, come mostly from the 25th edition of Stedman's Medical Dictionary.

251 sulphureonitrous# disproportionately+ anthropomorphological
 252 overpopulousness*# histomorphologically+
 253 interdenominationalism W3* unsurmountableness+ tetrasubstitution#
 254 Protostrongylus* unproportionately# antienvironmentalist OED+
 255 intersubstitution# multitudinousness+ scientificphilosophical*
 256 erythrocytolysis# postzygapophysis* expressionlessness+
 257 unscrupulousness# structurelessness+ anthroposomatologies
 258 unproportionality# polysensuousness* incontrovertibleness+
 259 protorthopterous*# incontrovertibility+
 260 psychophysiologist# hydroxytryptamine* extraconstitutional+

261 cystoproctostomy# sulphosulphurous* ovoviviparousness+
 262 symphyostemonous# overscrupulously*
 263 untrustworthily+*#
 264 overpresumptuous*# unconstitutionally+

265 supposititiously# hypereuryprosopy W3* disproportionableness+
 266 contrarevolutionary# antidisestablishmentarian Chamb+
 267 surreptitiousness*#
 268 superstitiousness*#
 269 supersensuously# anthropomorphously*+
 270 hyperscrupulosity* cystoelytroplasty# institutionalisation OED+

 271 oversuperstitious* disproportionateness+ desoxycorticosterone#
 272 hypophyseoprivous# transubstantiatively+
 273 erythrocytorrhexis+* unprepossessingness# anticonstitutionally
 274 unproportionateness# psychophysiologically+ ventrohysteropexy*
 275 pancreaticoduodenostomy+ equiproportionality*#
 276 unpresumptuously+*#
 277 institutionalization+ polysulphurization*#
 278 protelytropical*# protohymenopterous+
 279 prostatocystotomy*# constitutionalisation+
 280 counterinterpretation# deanthropomorphization+

 281 ureteroproctostomy* overindustrialization+ unconstitutionality#
 282 overscrupulousness*+# cholecystgastrostomy
 283 untrustworthiness*+#
 284 anticonstitutionalist+#
 285 supposititiousness# omnirepresentativeness+
 286 constitutionalization+ protransubstantiation#
 287 counterrevolutionize* ureterosalingostomy+ counterexpostulation#
 288 otorhinolaryngologist*# anthropomorphologically+
 289 stereophotomicrography+#
 290 desoxycorticosterones# typhlo-ureterostomy*+

 291 counterrevolutionary+#
 292 anthropomorphotheists* cholecystojejunostomy+#
 293 ureteropyelonephritis* hematospectrophotometer+#
 294 piezocrystallizations* gastroenterocolostomy+
 formaldehydesulphoxylate
 295 hysterosalpingostomy* duodenocholecystostomy+ counterrevolutionist#
 296 uretero-ureterostomy* prostatovesiculectomy+ thymosulphonephthalein+
 297 cholecystgastrostomy*+#
 298 typhloureterostomies* transubstantiationalist+#
 299 counterinterpretations*# counterrevolutionaries+
 300 cholecystojejunostomies* humuhumunukunukuapuaa W3#+

 301 polyvinylpyrrolidone W3* cryptocrystallization+#
 302 thyroparathyroidectomy*# gastroenteroanastomosis+
 303 anticonstitutionalists*# cholecystolithotriptics
 304 dacryocystorhinostomy*+# cardiothyrotoxicotically
 305 pseudomonocotyledonous*+# deinstitutionalizations
 306 counterrevolutionizes* counterexpostulations#
 307 laparocolpohysterotomy* antidisestablishmentarianism Cham+
 308 microspectrophotometers W3* superconstitutionally#
 309 microspectrophotometry W3* hypophyseoprivously#
 310 ureteroneocystostomy* thyroparathyroidectomies#

 311 esophagogastric anastomosis percussion instruments#

- 312 dacryocystorhinostomies* hematospectrophotometers#
- 313 polytetrafluoroethylene W3* formaldehydesulphoxylates#
- 314 counterrevolutionists* ureterocystanastomosis+
cryohypophysectomizing
- 315 laparocolpohysterotomies* thymosulphonephthaleins#
- 316 retropneumothorax Dorland* arthropneumothorax
- 317 thyroparathyroidectomy*# cheilognathoprosoposchisis
- 318 ureteroneocystostomies colpoureterocystotomy voluntary
jurisdictions#
- 319 humuhumunukunuaapuaas W3# dacryocystorhinostomize
- 320 cryptocrystallizations# pseudohypoparathyroidism*
cytospectrophotometrics
- 321 thyroparathyroidectomy*# bromochlorotrifluoroethane
- 322 desoxytribonucleoproteins* chromophototherapeutically
transmission dynamometers#
- 323 trimethylenetrinitramines* costotransversectomizes
- 324 hepatocholeangiojejunostomies
- 325 hyperstereothoraxograms ministers plenipotentiary#
- 326 syngenesiotransplantation W3 colpocystoureterotomies
- 327 hydroxyphenylpyruvate strict constructionists#
- 328 dacryocystosyringotomy*# trichloromonofluoromethane+
electrophototherapeutically
- 329 dacryocystoethmoidostomy+ costotransversectomizing
- 330 neuropsychopharmacologically
- 331 hepatocholeangiojejunostomize
- 332 dacryocystorhinostenosis*+ cholecystenteroanastomosis
- 333 dimethylphenylpiperazinium
- 334 enterocholecystostomizing
- 335 blepharokeratoconjunctivitis
- 336 arthropneumothoraxographed
- 337 cholecystogastrostomizing
- 338 osteochondrodystrophically
- 339 deoxynucleotidyltransferase
- 340 triethylenethiophosphoramidate+ ethanolaminephosphotransferase
- 341 nephroureterocystectomy
- 342 hyperstereothoraxography
- 343 ureteropyelonephrostomy* octamethylpyrophosphoramidate
- 344 dacryocystoethmoidostomize
- 345 nephroureterocystectomy
- 346 arthropneumothoraxographs
- 347 encephalomyeloradiculoneuritis
- 348 dacryocystoethmoidostomized
- 349 iodochlorohydroxyquinoline
- 350 acrocephalopolysyndactylically
- 351 cytospectrophotometrically
- 352 arthropneumothoraxography
- 353 counterimmuno-electrophoretic
- 354 radioimmuno-electrophoretically
- 355 ?

As a lagniappe, Leonard Gordon extends Darryl Francis's August 1972 article "Lightweights and Heavyweights", giving the lowest-scoring and highest-scoring examples of words of length one through fifteen.

- 16 syringosystrophy (17.00) lactobacillaceae (6.56)
- 17 untrustworthiness (16.65) chemicomechanical (7.35)
- 18 typhloureterostomy (16.11) astragalocalcaneal (8.11)
- 19 hypophyseoprivously (16.26) palaeacanthocephala (7.53)
- 20 ureteroneocystostomy (15.50) chemicomineralogical (8.75)
- 21 counterrevolutionists (14.95) chemicopharmaceutical (8.90)
- 22 dacryocystosyringotomy (14.91) historicocabbalistical (9.55)
- 23 ureteropyelonephrostomy (14.91) electroencephalographic (9.52)
- 24 transureteroureterostomy (15.33) pseudosaccharomycetaceae (9.54)

In Darryl's original list, cryptozygosity (17.36) outweighs tumultuousness, and voluptuously (18.25) outweighs untumultuous.

Atlas There (At Last Here)

All Over the Map (10 Speed Press, 1994), by David Jouris, develops a clever idea introduced in Word Ways a quarter-century ago by Leslie Card: collect groups of related placenames in the United States, such as Latin words, plants and flowers, stars and planets, weather, foods, occupations and some two dozen more. Jouris plots town locations on 33 US maps and provides opposite each map several paragraphs giving the stories behind a few of the names. Readers will probably be most beguiled by the Eccentric Map (reproduced on the cover of this \$9.95 paperback) which contains a wide variety of onomastic oddities, from Riddle to Enigma, from Toad Suck to Toad Hop, from Peculiar to Normal, from Why to Whynot, from Sleepy Eye to Smut Eye, and from Hell to Utopia.